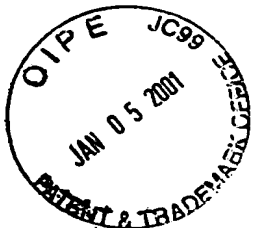


#6/17
W. Meredith
4/25/01



501.38590X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): N. WATANABE, et al

RECEIVED

Serial No.: 09/599,735

JAN 09 2001

Filed: June 23, 2000

Technology Center 2100

For: NETWORK-ATTACHED DISK UNIT WITH DATA PROTECTION
FUNCTION AND SERVER PROTECTING DATA STORED IN
NETWORK-ATTACHED DISK DEVICE

Group: 2782

Examiner:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 5, 2001

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the original specification with the attached Substitute Specification.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1, line 2, after "manages" insert --a--;